

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00  
INRE-00 /038 W

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O R 141353Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6154  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3423

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PINR, CA, NO  
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: KNUT HEDEMANN, NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR  
DESIGNATE TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: STATE 177113

1. AMBASSADOR HEDEMANN WAS BORN ON MAY 13, 1922 AND GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF OSLO'S LAW SCHOOL IN 1948. HE ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN JUNE 1949 AND AFTER COMPLETING TWO YEARS' TRAINING WAS ASSIGNED TO THE NORWEGIAN MISSION TO NATO, FIRST IN LONDON AND THEN IN PARIS. HE WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY ACCREDITED TO THE OECD.

2. HE RETURNED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN 1955 AND WAS APPOINTED OFFICE DIRECTOR IN 1959. IN 1961 HE WAS NAMED DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AND FOR THREE MONTHS ACTED AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN TEL AVIV. IN 1963 HE WAS NAMED DCM IN STOCKHOLM WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL 1969 WHEN HE TOOK OVER THE MINISTRY'S ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT WITH THE TITLE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL.

3. THE FOLLOWING YEAR HE WAS MOVED TO THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, AGAIN WITH A SHORT STINT  
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AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN NAIROBI. HE RETURNED TO THE MINISTRY IN 1972 WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL OCTOBER 7, 1975 WHEN HE ASSUMED DUTY AS NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR TO CANADA.

4. AMBASSADOR HEDEMANN MARRIED GRO RANVEIG IN 1948. THE HEDMANN'S HAVE THREE CHILDREN: BERIT BORH

[Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 11 DEC 2014]; NILS PETTER BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 11 DEC 2014]; AND OLE KRISTIAN BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 11 DEC 2014]. BOTH AMBASSADOR AND MRS. HEDEMANN SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND FRENCH. HEDEMANN ATTENDED CARLTON COLLEGE, MINN. 1946-47.

5. AMBASSADOR HEDEMANN'S MAIN INTERESTS OTHER THAN WORK ARE LITERATURE, HISTORY, SKIING AND TENNIS. HIS PRIMARY PROFESSIONAL INTEREST IS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. WHILE NO EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HAD PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE HEDEMANNS, MUTUAL FRIENDS OF THE HEDEMANNS AND MEMBERS OF THE MISSION STAFF HAVE DESCRIBED HEDEMANN AS A "POLITICAL ANIMAL AND ONE OF THE REAL STARS IN THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN SERVICE." HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING AN EXTREMELY ABLE, INTELLIGENT AND THOROUGHLY DECENT HUMAN BEING, WHOSE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES INSPIRED SEVERAL YOUNGER MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AT THE MINISTRY. IN FACT ONE OF THEM TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT "EVERY TIME YOU LEFT HIS OFFICE YOU FELT YOU HAD LEARNED SOMETHING BUT VERY PAINLESSLY."

6. WE HAVE REQUESTED RECENT PHOTOS OF AMBASSADOR AND MRS. HEDEMANN FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH HAS PROMISED TO FIND SOME FOR US.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: KNUT HEDEMANN, NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO THE UNITED STATES  
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**Review Markings:**  
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